

IN THE CLAIMS

1. - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising:~~

A method of communication between a communication station and one or more data carriers, the data carriers present within a communication range of the communication station, the method comprising:

supplying an interrogation signal to all the data carriers present within the communication range allowing the communication station to start an interrogation cycle;

receiving the interrogation signal by all the data carriers present within the communication range during the interrogation cycle;

supplying a response signal from the one or more data carriers to the communication station in response to the interrogation signal;

receiving by the communication station one or more of the response signals individually and, as a consequence, separately;

receiving by the communication station one or more of the response signals at least two at a time and, as a consequence, not separately;

supplying an acknowledge signal from the communication station to any of the data carriers whose response signal has been received separately by the communication station;

receiving and evaluating the acknowledge signal by the data carrier whose response signal has been received separately by the communication station;

in which as a result of the evaluation of the acknowledge signal, disabling each data carrier whose response signal has been received separately by the communication

station from receiving the interrogation signals supplied subsequently by the communication station;

in which after a termination of the interrogation cycle, supplying an interrogation signal by the communication station in order to start a subsequent interrogation cycle;

generating by the communication station each acknowledge signal as a component of an extended interrogation signal;

effecting the communication between the communication station and the data carriers in one or more time-sequential slots;

supplying the response signals in the time-sequential slots;

receiving by the communication station one or more of the response signals individually and therefore separately with each response signal appearing alone in a time slot.

generating the acknowledge signal in the form of a digital signal with the aid of the communication station, where the digital signal represents a bit string having a given number of main bits, with each main bit associated with a time slot, and those main bits which are associated with a time slot in which a response signal from the data carrier has appeared alone are set to a given bit value;

adding to each main bit at least one additional bit, both the main bit and the one additional bit represented by means of the digital signal; and

generating as a parameter of the data carrier the bit value of each additional bit.

16. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 15 further comprising generating the bit value of each additional bit as a representation of a signal strength of the response signal received by the communication station from the data carrier.

17. - 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A communication station as claimed in claim 18 further comprising~~

A communication station for the communication with one or more data carriers present within a communication range of the communication station, the communication station comprising:

interrogation signal generating means for generating an interrogation signal for starting an interrogation cycle;

transfer means for supplying the generated interrogation signal to all the data carriers present within the communication range, so that the interrogation signal can be received by all the data carriers present within the communication range;

station receiving means for receiving one or more response signals supplied by each of the data carriers in response to the received interrogation signal, in which one or more of the response signals can be received individually and, as a consequence, separately and one or more of the response signals can be received at least two at a time and, as a consequence, not separately;

acknowledge signal generating means for generating an acknowledge signal for each data carrier whose response signal has been received separately, whereby the

acknowledge signal can be supplied to the relevant data carrier with the aid of the transfer means; and

wherein the acknowledge signal generating means and the interrogation signal generating means are adapted to cooperate with each other so as to enable each acknowledge signal to be generated as a component of an extended interrogation signal;

the response signals communicated to the communication station in one or more time-sequential slots;

one or more of the response signals received individually and therefore separately with each appearing alone in a time slot; and

the acknowledge signal generating means are adapted to generate the acknowledge signal in the form of a digital signal, the digital signal represents a bit string having a given number of one or more main bits where each main bit is associated with a time slot, and those main bits which are associated with a time slot in which the response signal from the data carrier has appeared alone have a given bit value;

the acknowledge signal generating means adapted to generate the acknowledge signal in the form of a digital signal, wherein an additional bit is added to each main bit of the digital signal and a bit value of each additional bit forms a representation of a parameter of a specific data carrier.

20. (Previously Presented) A communication station as claimed in claim 19 further comprising the acknowledge signal generating means adapted to generate the

acknowledge signal in the form of a digital signal, wherein the bit value of each additional bit in the digital signal forms a representation of a signal strength of the response signal received by the communication station from the data carrier.